

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 2-3, 9-10, 23-26, and 28-43 have been canceled. Claims 1, 4-8, 11-22, 27, and 44-67 are pending, of which claims 1, 11-12, 27, 44, 61-62, 64, and 67 have been amended to place the application in condition for allowance.

Applicant contacted the Examiner by telephone on March 1, 2006 to discuss the pending Office Action dated December 1, 2005. Applicant appreciates the Examiner taking time to discuss the subject application in an effort to advance prosecution, and to place the claims in condition for allowance over the references of record. Accordingly, the pending claims are amended herein such that:

Claim 1 along with dependent claims 4-8, 11-22, and 27 are allowable;
Claim 44 along with dependent claims 45-60 are allowable; and
Claim 61 along with dependent claims 62-67 are allowable.

Claim Objections

Claims 62 and 64 are objected to for an informality (*Office Action* p.2). Appropriate corrections have been provided herein and Applicant respectfully requests that the claim objections be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §101 Claim Rejections

Claims 1-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter (*Office Action* p.2). Appropriate corrections have

1 been provided herein and Applicant respectfully requests that the §101 claim
2 rejections be withdrawn.

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4 **35 U.S.C. §102 Claim Rejections**

5 Claims 1-67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by
6 U.S. Patent No. 5,990,879 to Mince (hereinafter, "Mince") (*Office Action* p.3).
7 Claims 2-3, 9-10, 23-26, and 28-43 have been canceled.

8 As described above, pending claims 1, 4-8, 11-22, 27, and 44-67 are in
9 condition for allowance over Mince. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests
10 that the §102 rejection be withdrawn.

11
12 **Conclusion**

13 Pending claims 1, 4-8, 11-22, 27, and 44-67 are in condition for allowance.
14 Applicant respectfully requests issuance of the subject application. If any issues
15 remain that preclude issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact
16 the undersigned attorney before issuing a subsequent Action.

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18 Respectfully Submitted,

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20 Dated: March 1, 2006

21 By: 

22 David A. Morasch
23 Lee & Hayes, PLLC
24 Reg. No. 42,905
25 (509) 324-9256 x 210